OCTOBER 1977

youth MAGAZINE

C-3PO AND R2-D2 ON BEING HUMAN

NATALIE COLE ON DAD, FAITH, MUSIC

DISNEY ON THE SPIRIT OF YOUTH

Disney's World

BY HERMAN C. AHRENS, JR.

"Take one last look at the dock, folks! Wave good-bye to civilization. You may never see it again," smiles the youthful skipper of the "Amazon Annie" launch as it quietly chugs away from the wharf into the "danger-filled" rivers ahead. This is the Jungle Cruise, one of the popular attractions at Walt Disney World, near Orlando, Florida.

The skipper introduces himself as "Daring Daryl." He steers the boat through exotic jungle scenes of Africa, South America, an Asia, and past the grasslands o South Africa's veldt. He warns h 30 passengers of trumpeting water-spouting elephants, o cascading waters of Schweitze Falls, of hissing pythons, o threatening warriors. He point out the beauty of the butterflies a large as seagulls, the antics o monkeys, the awe of a decayin Asian temple.

And his running commentary i full of puns: "That python is abou

nly in the fantasy of Florida's Walt Disney World can a visitor look past posing tourists ɔwn Main Street and see Cinderella's Castle.

ɔ get into the old Congo queeze—guaranteed to leave ou breathless!" or "We're ntering the crocodile country, so lease keep your hands in the oat because these crocodiles re always looking for a hand-out. had an English teacher who idn't listen and she's now teach-ng shorthand."

The puns are part of what Daryl alls his "spiel."

"You're always going to have ariations in your spiel," he explains. "You have a basic outline of the scenes you're experiencing but every guide approaches it in their own way. Everytime we go around, I'm trying to impress somebody on that boat. It's like being an actor. You're your own show.

"My main job is to talk to the guests aboard, to give them a good show, to watch out for their safety, to take tickets, to load and unload the boat, and to show them courtesy," Daryl sums it up.

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DESIGNERS: Bob and Sandy Bauer

Cover photo: © Walt Disney Productions

Ambassador Debby Bennett and Mayor Mickey Mouse join talents to whip up tourism to their town.

Originally from Melbourne Florida, Daryl Meir, 19, starte working at Walt Disney Worl right after he got out of hig school. He first worked with th "Pirates of the Caribbean" ride He's now a qualified trainer. An in between "cruises," he goes to local college.

Daryl is one of many youn workers who give Walt Disne World a youthful, adventurous wholesome image. For thos young people who pass the jo requirements, it's a nice environ ment in which to work, especiall while going to high school o college in the immediate area.

"Mine is not a physically demanding job, but I don't thin

any workers at Walt Disney World are young people, ther in high school, or getting out, or in college. But you've got to like to work with people."

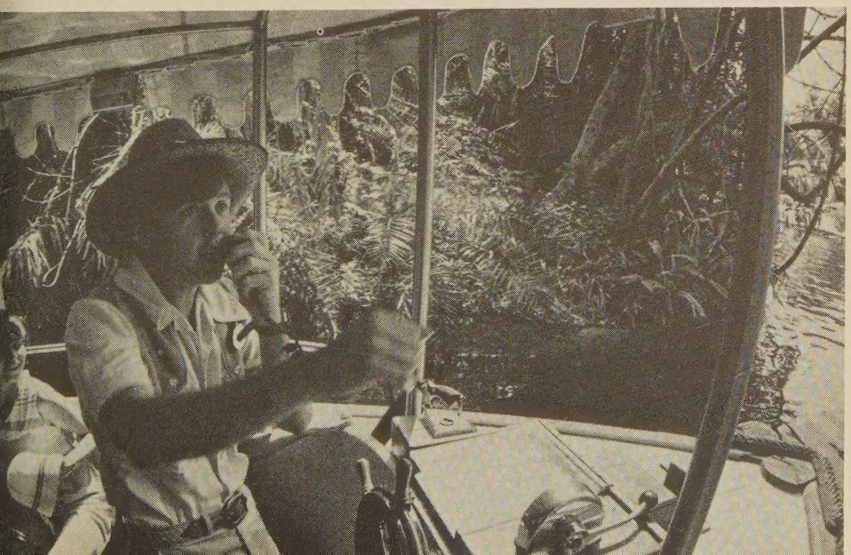
ıybody should come here to ork if they don't like to work with eople. If you can't control ourself, you'll find it hard at mes. Basically, the company is oking for young people who are ight and energetic about doing is kind of work."

Underscoring Daryl's emphasis ı entertainment is Debby ennett, 24, Walt Disney World's 977 Ambassador.

"Our major purpose here is to ut on a good show," says Debby. Vhen Walt Disney first devel- oed Disneyland in California ıd then Walt Disney World in Florida, many of his attractions cost more to create than a feasible price. But he went ahead, because he felt that it's more important to put on a good show than to make a lot of money. But by making each attraction the very best show possible for the audience, they were successful. And so our first objective is to put on a good show. And each of our employees is considered a cast member with a role in the show."

And Debby is cast well. She personifies the happy spirit of the Florida Vacation Kingdom. A native of Corning, N.Y., Debby is a

ipper Daryl Meir steers his launch on the Jungle Cruise as passengers watch creatures the wild come alive through Disney's electronic magic.



"Our major purpose here is to put on a good show. Thus each employee is a cast member with a role in that show, whether ticket-taker or street-cleaner."

former school teacher with special affection for children gained as a volunteer worker with handicapped youngsters in her high school days. Her Disney career began in 1976 as a hostess in the Village Restaurant at Lake Buena Vista, Walt Disney World's special vacation community.

Chosen from among WDW's 10,000 hosts and hostesses as their special ambassador of good will for 1977, Debby has carried on a people-to-people program in many cities and countries, visiting hospitals, schools, and orphanages, meeting dignitaries and business people, hosti special local presentations abo the facilities at Walt Disney Wor and appearing on radio and T talk shows, including the "Mi Douglas Show," "Phil Donahu Show," and "Good Mornin America."

"I've learned a lot about mys traveling and talking to people confides Debby. "Visiting hosp tal patients has done wonders f me."

"People ask me all sorts questions about the Magic Kin dom," Debby adds. "Like wh does Mickey Mouse eat a

Two young adventurers body bobsled down the 260-feet-long water flume slide Whoop 'N Holler Hollow in River Country.

© Walt Disney Productions

l of the Magic Kingdom is open from 11 m. to 5 a.m. for seniors on three Grad tes each year.

'here does he sleep? Of course, e eats a lot of cheese and lives in inderella Castle. He's the mayor f the Magic Kingdom. And oung people often ask me what 's like to work at Walt Disney Vorld. I try to describe our oncept of what it means for all of s to be part of one big cast."

"Every cast member here at Valt Disney World is important. or example, take the ticket-taker nd the street-cleaner. They're oing to answer more questions sked them about the Magic ingdom, or where is this, or hat's happening when, than omeone working in an office or erforming on a stage. It takes a warm person to be able to answer those questions patiently, intelligently, and individually. We insist that our cast members be courteous and pleasurable to all of our guests.

"That's why our training is important. That's why we have what we call the Disney University to keep everyone constantly updated on the latest information, refreshed in our purposes, and reinforced as a person.

"To apply, you write to: Casting Building, Walt Disney World, P.O. Box 40, Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830. Every application letter is read. If you are to be considered, you will receive a letter saying you have to apply in person at Walt Disney World to get a job here. If you get a job, you have to arrange your own local housing and transportation to and from work. We do, however, try to help people find housing and someone to live with who is compatible.

"The minimum age is 16. Grooming requirements are a consideration, but, basically, we look for a neat personal appearance.

"As for pay, if you're a young person still going to school, you're basically talking about a minimum-wage kind of job. But to me, if it's summer and if it's not what you're going to do for the rest of your life, it's well worth the time and effort."

For college-age singers, dancers, and musicians, there is

Is the "spirit of Disney" for everybody?

The "spirit of Disney" is a spirit of innocence, where good triumphs; and the villain is easily identifiable. I love it! We all need such escape from reality into fantasy once in a while. And I challenge you to find better fantasy than Disney!
—Rebecca Fines, 16, East Alton. Ill.

Disney is a magic place where all the pain and harshness of the real world is softened and soothed and given back in little chunks of love.
—Jan Steiner, 15, Harrisburg, Pa.

It's optimistic, plastic, All-American, packaged, conservative. illusory, "goody-two-shoes," child-like (not childish), always amazed at nature and world, curious, squeaky-clean, loving, humorous, wise. It's for anyone who needs and wants to escape from reality. All of us need it at some point in our life—no matter how much we put it down at other times.
—Ya-Syn Lee, 16, Columbus, Ohio

A child may get turned on by Mickey Mouse and a teenager may get turned on by The Hobbit. Both have the spirit of fantasy and imagination.
—Larry Twiss, 17, King of Prussia, Pa.

It's fun-filled, care-free, and innocent, but not prudish.
—Maureen Ryan, 16, Miami, Florida

Disney is a master of fantasy, but *not* a children's author. If a person wishes to enter a world of fantasy, then the "spirit of Disney" is for them. If that same person wants to read a story which is judged "good" by the most acceptable standards for literature, including children's literature, then I would not recommend the distorted and unrealistic representation of life as created by Disney.
—Susan Lynn Koon, 19, Fairmont, W.Va.

Disney films usually bring out the good side of life, yet are still realistic. They're wholesome movies and I think that everyone needs some coaching and guidance in these days.
—Carol Eastin, 17, Clay Center, Nebr.

The magic is for kids, the memories are for us. —Tom Kinser, 20, Kettering, Ohio

Children have their imagination to back on, but teens and adults n another escape.
—Rick Speck, 17, Tonawanda, N

I still enjoy going to a Disney movie e if I am 17. I am interested in literature a really enjoy anything funny. Disney such a great imagination. I think it's n plastic type of entertainment.
—Elaine Prochnau, 17, Edmonton, A Cana

Disney brings out the adventure fr our souls and lets us live out heal fantasies.
—Duayne Meyer, 17, Monroe, N

It's too bad some consider themsel "too sophisticated" for such things. T fun is there and it doesn't ruin your hea or become a bad habit.
—Jauni Kessler, 19, Celina, O

In a world of "X"-rated movies, disas films, and re-runs on TV, someone sho provide some decent entertainment. anyone who wants a good time with obscenity, Disney is it.
—L.D. Shockley, 15, Snow Hill, N

Many teenagers may find Disney t devoid of meaning to enjoy as fully as th would other things. Disney has ne portrayed teenagers well.
—Mark Cofta, 17, East Aurora, N

It's charming, saccharine, optimistic, of which is needed but not realistic entertainment does have that prerogati
—Ann Howard, 19, Defiance, O

It's optimism, looking at the good side things, sparkly, warm, 100%, undilute able-to-leap-tall-buildings-in-a-singl bound love for others and the wo around us. Disney is for everyone. W doesn't need to follow a dream or reach a star? I admire those who have su active imaginations and develop so ma characters that have brought so much to a world that often seems hung up w all the negative sides of life.
—Jeanne Lischer, 20, St. Louis, M

If people can't have fun doing thin they're sick.
—Nathan Shones, 17, Fergue Falk, Mi

"We're talking about a wholehearted love for everyone. If our visitors take even a small part of that spirit back to the real world, they'll be better people for it."

the Disney Entertainment Work Experience Program. The student talents are put to work for the summer, plus they can earn a salary and three college credits. Auditions are open to all freshpersons, sophomores, and juniors currently in college. They perform in the All-American College Marching Band or the All-American College Singers at Disneyland and at Walt Disney World. For further information, write: Disney Entertainment/ Work Experience Program, Entertainment Division, Walt Disney World, P.O. Box 40, Lake Buena Vista, Florida 32830. Phone number is 305/824-4206.

"Every day in our parades we have marching bands from high schools, colleges and military outfits," Debby points out. "They apply to come to parade for a day. They pay their own way. Some make it part of their spring or fall trip. But it does give them a chance to be a part of our show and visit our park. If they're interested, they should write to the Band Festival Office here at our Walt Disney World address.

"A special event that's growing each year is our series of Grad Nite parties," Debby continues. "For several nights in May, we open Magic Kingdom from 11 p.m. until 5 a.m. for graduating seniors of high school graduating classes from all over the country. It's a very dressy affair; all attractions are on one ticket; and major musical groups perform throughout the night. This year we had over 55,000 seniors from Florida and eight other states."

When school is not in session, the percentage of young people among the guests at Walt Disney World is high. Their favorite attraction is the Space Mountain—another name for a rocket-fast rollercoaster—all in the dark with blurred visions of planets flashing by.

Also high on the list of teen favorites are the Haunted Mansion, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea, Country Bear Jamboree, It's a Small World, and Hall of Presidents. Their only complaint is the long lines at the more popular attractions. But with 13 million visitors passing through the gates each year, waiting can be minimized if you plot your schedule and itinerary.

"Many people don't realize how large Walt Disney World is," Debby reports. "We not only have the Magic Kingdom, which is similar to Disneyland in Cali-

"If we can bring together the best know-how and creative imagination, we can build a community that will influence city living for centuries."

fornia, but we also are a total vacation destination resort. Besides the Magic Kingdom, we have four distinct resort areas here—Polynesian Village, Contemporary Resort, Fort Wilderness Camp Grounds, and Golf Resort. In California, Disneyland was built on a total of 200 acres. In Florida, Walt Disney World consists of 27,400 acres (43 square miles), of which the Vacation Kingdom covers 2,500 acres and the Magic Kingdom portion is 100 acres."

Now in the developmental stages is a plan for an Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow (EPCOT), combining a permanent international exposition on man and his world today, called "World Showcase," with an exciting look at man and his tomorrow in "Future World."

"If we can bring together the technical know-how of U.S. industry, and the creative imagination of the Disney organization," Walt Disney had dreamed, "I believe we can build a community that more people will talk about and come to look at than any other area in the world. . . . I'm sure this EPCOT can influence the future city living for generations to come."

Since Walt Disney started t first theme park 22 years ag dozens of major "theme" par have come into existence Opryland (Tennessee), Six Fla Over Texas, Georgia, and Mi America (St. Louis), Worlds Fun (Missouri), Hersheypa (Pennsylvania), Great Ameri (Illinois and California), Da Continent (Florida), and other But the largest resort and recre tion park anywhere is Walt Disn World.

"In trying to spread the Disne spirit," Debby confesses, "I' often asked to define it. To me, th Disney spirit is just a matter making people feel like they' important. We're talking about wholehearted love for everyon You walk into the Magic Kingdo and everyone makes an effort t convey that spirit—to sa 'please' and 'thank you' and 'hav a nice day.' It may soun idealistic, but people on vacatio deserve that kind of treatmen They're trying to get away fro their everyday burdens an problems. If our visitors take eve a small part of that spirit back t the real world, they're probab better people for it.

"I was raised in a small-tow community," Debby continue

pace Mountain provides visitors with a rocket-paced voyage through the darkness of pace as views of the cosmos flash by.

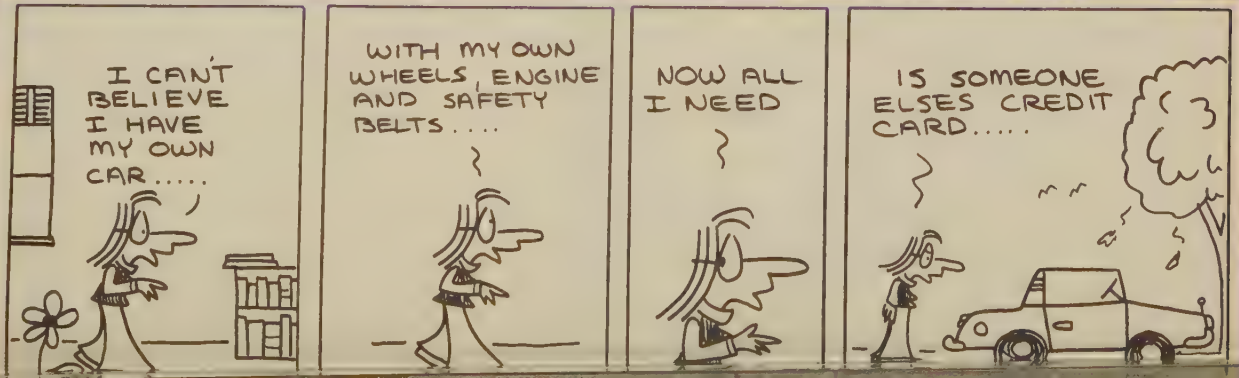
and I always felt it was right to mile and say 'hello' to people on he street. When I came to Walt Disney World, I was pleased to ee that they were making a milar effort to say and do those hings for other people. It does ork. It is not really a phony kind f thing. And it is contagious.

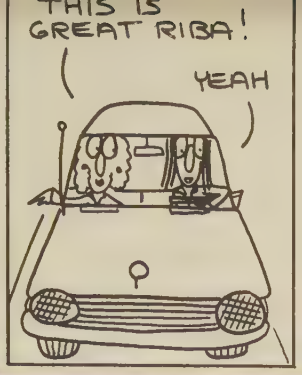
"For example, we pride urselves on the fact that we work o hard to keep our park and esort areas clean. But, I think, if ou have a clean place, people will help keep it clean."

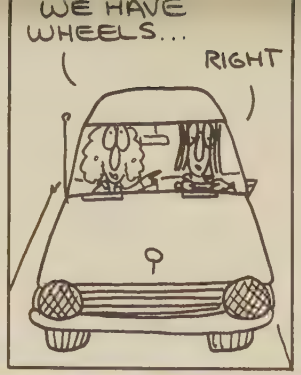
Coming out of the jungle now is Daryl's "Amazon Annie" launch. He rounds the bend where Trader Sam, the "head" salesman, is concerned about his "shrinking" business. Pointing forward, the young skipper, in his usual wry wit, concludes his "spiel" with the warning to his passengers: "Folks, we still have the most dangerous part of our journey ahead. That's right! It's a return to civilization. . . ." □

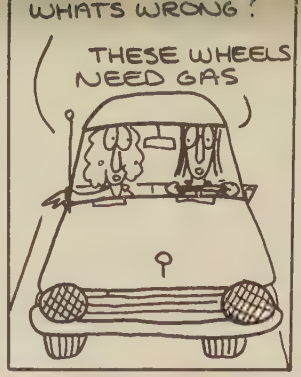
ON THE ROAD

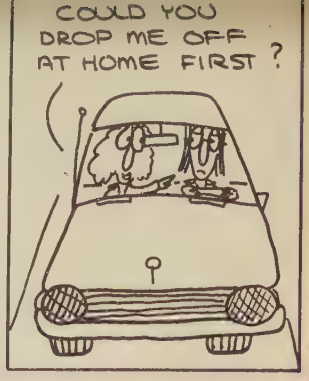
PAPERCLIPS
BY DOUG BRUNNER

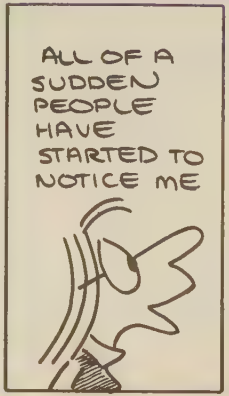












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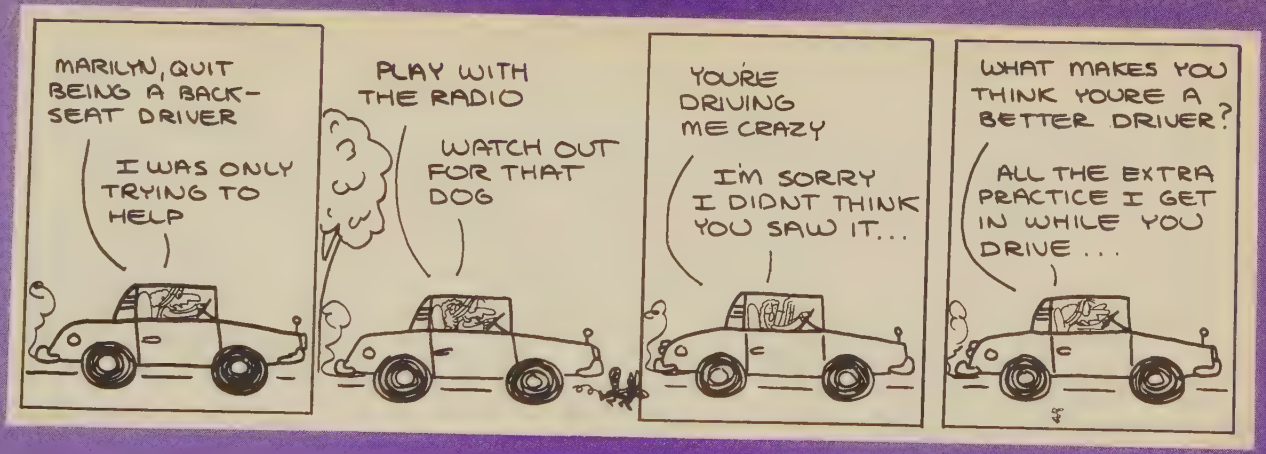
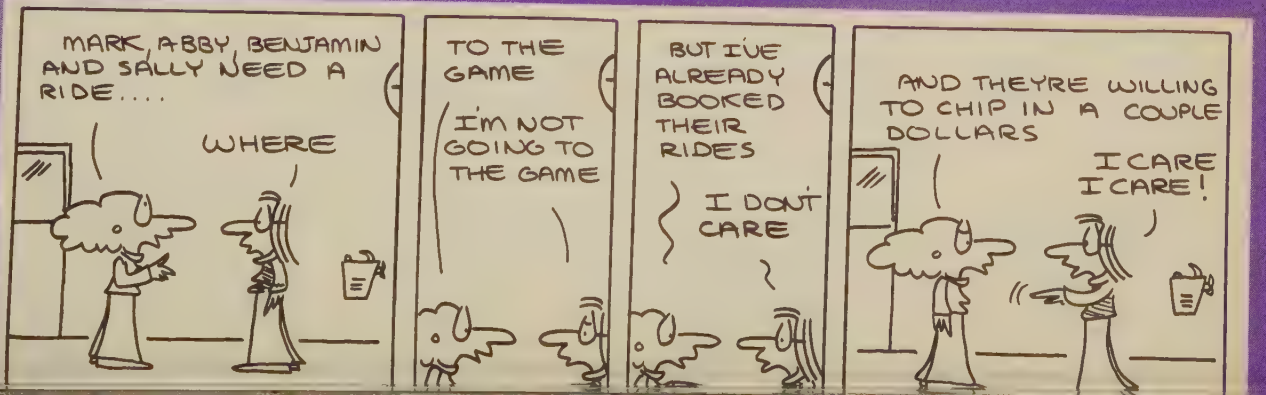

MARILYN, QUIT BEING A BACK-SEAT DRIVER
I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP
PLAY WITH THE RADIO
WATCH OUT FOR THAT DOG
YOU'RE DRIVING ME CRAZY
I'M SORRY I DIDNT THINK YOU SAW IT...
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOURE A BETTER DRIVER?
ALL THE EXTRA PRACTICE I GET IN WHILE YOU DRIVE...


MARK, ABBY, BENJAMIN AND SALLY NEED A RIDE....
WHERE
TO THE GAME
I'M NOT GOING TO THE GAME
BUT I'VE ALREADY BOOKED THEIR RIDES
I DON'T CARE
AND THEYRE WILLING TO CHIP IN A COUPLE DOLLARS
I CARE I CARE!

LOOK AT THAT CUTE HITCH-HIKER RIBA

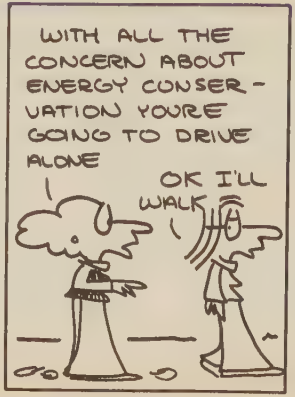
YOU DIDNT STOP— STOP!

ARE YOU CRAZY?
I DONT BELIEVE IN HITCHHIKING

SINCE WHEN?
SINCE I GOT MY CAR

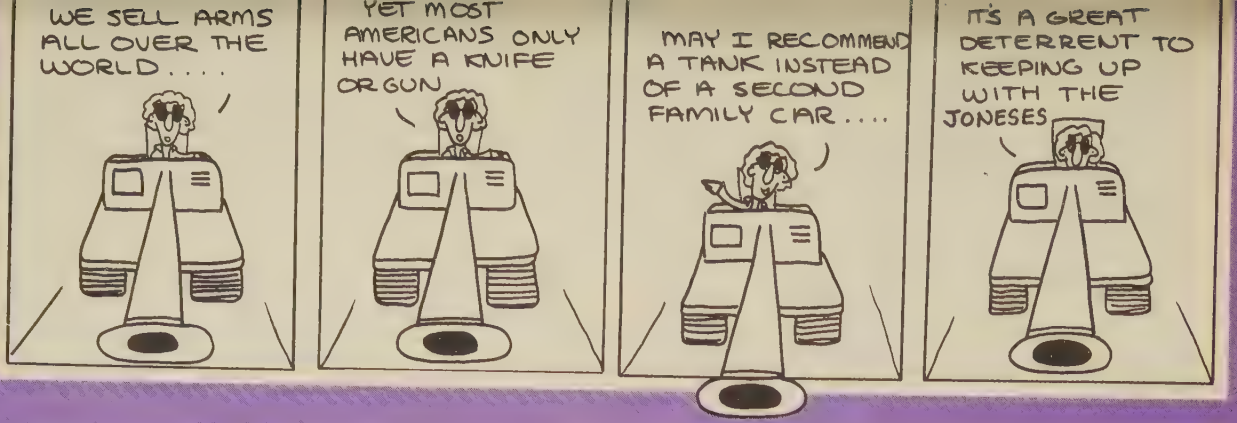
WHERE ARE YOU GOING RIBA?
FOR A DRIVE

WAIT FOR ME....
ALONE

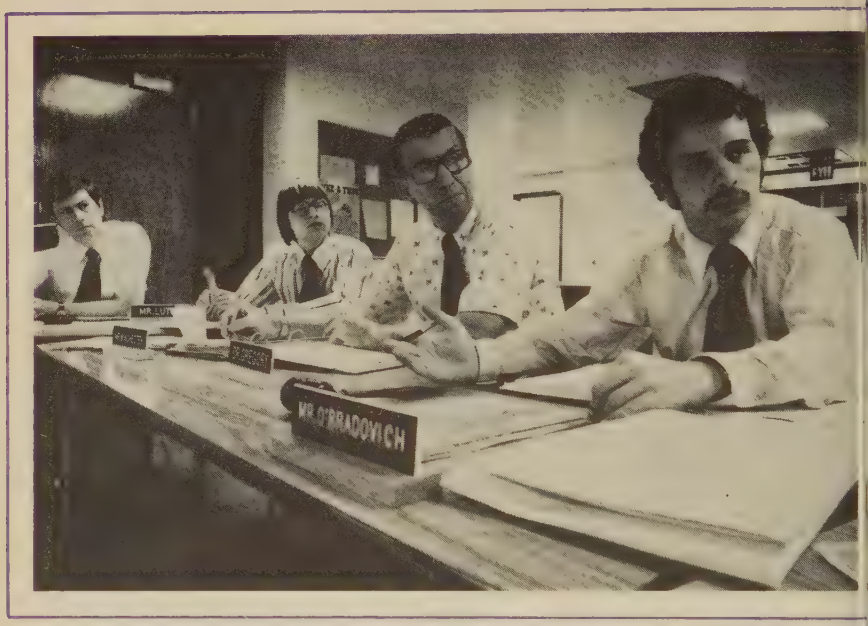

WITH ALL THE CONCERN ABOUT ENERGY CONSER-VATION YOURE GOING TO DRIVE ALONE
OK I'LL WALK

CAN I BORROW THE CAR

I WANTED BASIC TRANS-PORTATION
YET SOMETHING A BIT DIFFERENT
SALE
AND IT HAD TO BE AN AMERICAN VEHICLE
WHAT COULD BE MORE AMERICAN THAN A TANK.....
CLANKETY CLANK CLANK
IT WASN'T EASY TO GET THIS TANK
THEY DID AN INTENSIVE SECURITY SCREENING TO MAKE SURE I WAS A LAW ABIDING CITIZEN
AND WOULDN'T USE IT FOR SUBVERSIVE ENDS.....
THEY CHECKED MY LIBRARY CARD FOR FINES....


WE SELL ARMS ALL OVER THE WORLD....
YET MOST AMERICANS ONLY HAVE A KNIFE OR GUN
MAY I RECOMMEND A TANK INSTEAD OF A SECOND FAMILY CAR....
IT'S A GREAT DETERRENT TO KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES

KNOTS, WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU DOING WITH A TANK?
FIGHTING MY WAY THROUGH TRAFFIC
BUT THIS IS MILITARY HARDWARE
IM USING IT FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES
YOU ARE!
DEFENSIVE DRIVING
BOOM
DOUG BRUNNER '77



Mike O'Bradovich and Mike Winchester were both 18 when elected to the school boa in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Later O'Bradovich was elected the nation's youngest board president.

TEEN-AGE POLITICIANS

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS BY SCOTT J. WITTE

Two 18-year-olds in Council Bluffs, Iowa, are trying to show that teenagers can change things politically *because* of their youth. In three short years, their local activities have gained national attention, including a story on the CBS-TV network show, "Sixty Minutes."

Mike O'Bradovich, 21, and Mike Winchester, 20, were elected decisively to the local school board in 1974 and 1975 respectively. Both were 18 at the time of their election. This past year O'Bradovich was elected board president—youngest in the nation. It is no small honor. With a $21-million-a-year budget, the school is the largest tax-spending body in that part of the state.

I interviewed the two Mikes twice in depth. The first time in early 1976 when they were the struggling, idealistic opposition. The second time, earlier this year, when they were the head of a supposed majority and have brought some fundamental changes to Council Bluffs. But, as we'll see, in many ways, they feel themselves worse off now than in the previous two years.

O'Bradovich and Winchester are part of a small but growing number of 18-to-20-year-olds elected as full members to local school boards and city councils, instead of serving as non-voting representatives of the "student voice."

But why would a city of 60,000 elect one 18-year-old to the school board, let alone two? "I was in the right place at the right time," O'Bradovich suggests. "There was enough disenchantment with the school board and the people were open-minded enough to elect me."

Of course, there was more than just luck involved. It may have been a quirk of fate, but Winchester and O'Bradovich were neighbors until the age of three. That was enough to get them talking again in high school when they started riding the same school bus.

"If the school system doesn't like us on the board now, they can blame it on bus 45," Winchester muses.

At the end of 1973, Winchester was upset because the school board closed six elementary schools, even though a bond issue to build new ones had failed. One of the closed schools was Harrison, his own former grade school, which his younger sister and brother were attending at that time.

The board claimed the six schools were fire hazards and unsafe. But closing them forced many children to go to more distant, now overcrowded

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Scott J. Witte is a free-lance photographer-writer from Slinger, Wis., who frequently contributes to YOUTH Magazine.

schools, angering many parents who didn't believe the old schools were really unsafe. Mike Winchester didn't accept the board's explanation either and became involved in the group, Citizens to Keep Our School Open (CKOSO), which was filing suit to stop the closings. "I talked to Mike about that every night on the bus," he recalls.

Meanwhile, Mike O'Bradovich was angry because an unwritten school system policy stopped the band from marching in a Veterans' Day parade because it fell on Sunday. "It was a competition against other high schools. So it was a big thing for us students, he says.

The two shared their complaints. "We were in mutual agreement that the school board was acting irresponsibly and arbitrarily," Winchester says.

If they felt so strongly, why not try to get on the school board? But, in 1974, Winchester was 17. So O'Bradovich, a year older, considered running.

That summer Winchester was O'Bradovich's manager in essentially a two-man campaign effort. They worked long and hard, going through neighborhoods, talking to any person or group

The two Mikes (at right) meet with local citizens to discuss school problems in preparation for next board sessions.

"We talked to anybody who would listen. We wrote pamphlets, made yard signs, printed bumper stickers—it was something this district had never seen before."

who would listen. They wrote pamphlets, made yard signs, and had bumper stickers printed—"It was something that this district had never seen," O'Bradovich says. The novelty of his age also brought him much attention and free publicity.

O'Bradovich and Winchester wanted to be sure they knew what they were talking about, so they did their homework. "We spent the whole summer researching in the library, city hall, and the county court house," Winchester recalls.

"We would talk to the fire marshal about the school buildings and talk to teachers about their problems," O'Bradovich says. "We probably ran around more than we had to. But one thing we did was to establish confidence in ourselves by doing it."

In addition, being on the outside, they didn't have ready access to all the information the board had, so they had to dig it out themselves, they say. "In order to get anything done we had to go to the sources," Winchester insists, "trying to expose that the public had gotten a one-sided, distorted view of situations."

Politics and campaigning came naturally to O'Bradovich. "He has always been a go-getter and a leader," a high school teacher remembers. Other kids looked toward him to organize and do things, even in grade school. He was the captain of the volleyball and soccer teams. He was also prominent in groups like band, choir and debate. During his sophomore and junior years, he was elected class president and was student council president as a senior.

As a candidate for the school board, O'Bradovich was fresh young blood, when, to many voters, the standard candidates weren't very attractive. And important also was the image he projected, especially his clear, concise, and honest answers to questions as reported in the newspaper. He was seen to be running because of honest concerns.

The first year on the board was difficult for O'Bradovich. He was odd-man-out. In areas of major policy differences, such as administration issues or dealing with old buildings, his one vote meant little. His only power was in making waves and seriously questioning the majority positions. He was, he says, often

"I would have preferred to work in the background. There are more things you can do and say when you're not being quoted in the newspaper all the time."

jumped on in executive sessions. Being the anomaly, he perhaps was more critically scrutinized by peers and press. "I was counting the days until the next election," he says. He hoped an ally, preferably Winchester, would join him.

Winchester had little interest in running then. "I would have much preferred, and still would prefer, to be on the outside, working in the background," he says. "There are more things you can do and say when you're not being quoted in the newspaper all the time." But then the candidate whom he was backing decided not to run. "I had just worked too hard and long on these issues to pass up that election without a candidate."

Unlike O'Bradovich, Winchester doesn't fit right into the image of a politician. He usually dresses more casually. He looks younger. But you quickly come to appreciate his intelligence and concern, as with O'Bradovich. He concentrated on only a few extracurricular activities in school, where he was the first junior to edit the school newspaper. But he *was* concerned about the school board. So he devoted his senior year to working with O'Bradovich and the CKOSO.

The transition to the board provided some problems. "The first thing that strikes you is an overwhelming sense of responsibility," O'Bradovich says. "You have 13,000 students, 1000 employees, and 29 buildings which are going to be affected by your decision, and you darn well better make the right one."

Another problem: "I wish they would call me Mike," O'Bradovich says. "I have a heck of a time associating myself with 'Mr. O'Bradovich.'"

Once elected the work pace didn't slow much. The two were often asked to speak to groups, and took advantage of it. As O'Bradovich explains, "Wherever we speak we tell them 'Now you know someone on the board whom you can talk to. Don't hesitate to call us, that's our job.' The purpose is to establish that rapport with the community, to find their needs and wants and to act accordingly."

And this wins friends. "I'm a convert," says Stan Dyson, president of the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce. At first he and others in the professional and business community had some concern about just what the two represented, whether they were puppets of more conserva-

tive factions. Talking to the group, O'Bradovich relieved most of their fears. "He doesn't have an ax to grind, and he really listens to and considers our points, though he may still not agree. People have to be impressed."

O'Bradovich and Winchester also got into the schools often to talk to teachers, finding out their problems, desires, and opinions and basing decisions on them. "This is what we need," one teacher comments, "so we don't have a distant group telling us what to do. It is important to have that interaction and communication."

"We don't want to tell teachers how to teach or what they need," Winchester explains. "We don't know what is best. None of us on the board is an educator."

"Our main goal is to restore government to the people," O'Bradovich says. "The question is: Who is going to control the school system, an elite core of downtown business people, or all the people of Council Bluffs?" That sounds revolutionary, but a year ago these two were considered the most conservative of the board's seven members.

For instance, the past school board wanted to replace older neighborhood schools with new, central ones, in part to attract new business. O'Bradovich and Winchester feel the neighborhood schools can provide better education and that remodeling them would also cost less. They have stopped further closings and demolition of older schools but have not yet been able to reverse those decisions of the past board.

The school administration wanted an open-classroom education system, feeling it would accelerate learning. O'Bradovich and Winchester weren't wholly convinced. But they were strongly against the administration's forcing it on reluctant teachers. Their efforts stopped open classroom.

In fact, the whole issue of the administration—its size, cost and authority—is an irritant to O'Bradovich and Winchester. They would like to cut its size and cost, to have it co-ordinate and run the school system, but to leave educational policy decisions to lower levels—teachers and parents.

Apparently most voters agree with the positions which O'Bradovich and Winchester take, because within three years they elected the two young men, plus enough candidates who supported them to give the two Mikes a majority this past year.

O'Bradovich and Winchester are as determined on the board as they were getting there.

For instance, when one architectural firm reported a certain school building was structurally unsound and the cost of remodel-

ing more than building a new one, the two young men asked four uninvolved architectural firms to evaluate the findings and the building and all four agreed the critical firm's report was wrong in its conclusions, though not in its facts.

When the critical architects pointed to a crack in one of the building's walls as evidence that it was unsound, Winchester spent a day photographing similar or worse cracks in other school buildings, including the newest ones, which were considered sound.

For long hours, the two listen to tapes of past board meetings to point out contradications they can quote to other board members who say one thing six months ago and another today, or administrators who misrepresent earlier board directives.

They justify such fact-finding as a way to keep the board and the administration responsible.

The two Mikes insist that they never argue for argument's sake, but neither do they accept anything at face value. Despite charges that they are close-minded, they say there is no issue they won't change their minds on, if the reasoning is good enough. On several issues, they say, they have done just that, though without fanfare.

Only when O'Bradovich and Winchester had a majority, they had reasoned, could they make the board responsive to the people's needs. After the 1976 election, they seemed to have a solid majority. The board elected O'Bradovich president and it seemed their long struggle would finally start paying off.

Then everything started falling apart. The day before their first meeting to start carrying out their goals, a junior high school was set afire by arsonists. Suddenly 1000 students were without a school and a largely inexperienced board was thrown into a crisis that would leave little time to work on any changes.

The fire also strained relations with parents of the students of the burned-out school who felt the board wasn't working fast enough to solve the crises. Although O'Bradovich now feels he should have called daily meetings and perhaps taken personal control of the situation, he feels what efforts he did make to move faster were slowed by a reluctant board member, by a cautious administration, and by an angry citizens group who itself had started a bond issue. In the process, the board lost some of its respect.

And, too, age suddenly became an ironic stumbling block to the two young men. On the past, more liberal board, age was never a factor, all agree. But the current board is more conservative and traditional. While they insist that

"Since I've been president, people think I represent the entire school board; they always ask me 'What does the board think?' but rarely 'What do *you* think?'"

age is not a factor with them, Winchester recounts times when a board member would say, "Well, take it from me, I'm older."

Even being president has proven more a hindrance to O'Bradovich. "I like to speak my piece in public and I've had to remain silent, because now every time I say something, people think I am representing the entire school board. They ask 'What does the board think?' but rarely 'What do *you* think?'"

"It's different when you're in the minority," Winchester says. "You expect to loose. But when you're in the majority and you lose because your own people are being wishy-washy, you wonder how you are ever going to win." In effect, they feel they are still a minority.

Another problem is the time squeeze. Winchester laments, "We do more work than we used to, but it's more spread out, so the quality is less. You can't talk to the

As president of the school board, Mike O'Bradovich helps hand out diplomas at a local high school graduation ceremony.

"Don't run just to show people you can do it. The purpose for being in public office is to fulfill a responsible position responsibly."

fire marshal for six hours about one school, when you're in charge of 29 schools."

In addition to school board work, O'Bradovich and Winchester are both full-time pre-law students making the dean's list (University of Nebraska—Omaha for Winchester, Creighton University of Omaha for O'Bradovich). Both also have part-time jobs—since being on the school board is voluntary—further consuming time. O'Bradovich works as a bank teller and Winchester as a house painter.

They do give up much of their personal time and the right to "be young." But there are rewards. "No college can teach us what we're learning now," O'Bradovich says. They are getting experience in business, politics, and "ways of the world" far beyond most people's, especially of their age.

But when considering their lack of progress on many goals, the two have become somewhat dismayed. "Realistically," O'Bradovich says, "with the limited time left on the board and considering the personnel we have to work with, we realize there isn't a whole lot that's going to get done." He does feel, however, that he has accomplished his primary goal of "returning government to the people." In the past three years, voter participation has increased a good four-fold, with all segments of the community participating, not simply downtown business people." In addition, important issues are receiving much wider attention and discussion. O'Bradovich feels he and Winchester had much to do with that.

One problem is that obligations of the school board may interfere with plans for law school. Both hope to return to Council Bluffs to practice law, perhaps start their own law firm together.

O'Bradovich and Winchester are both exceptionally capable young men, but they are not unique. As such they prove that age need not be a limiting factor to other capable teenagers.

"Don't run just to show people you can do it," Winchester warns. "The purpose for being in office is to fulfill a responsible position responsibly. If a teenager thinks he or she can do the job as well as anyone else and is really interested in doing it, the age really shouldn't be a factor. It may be a problem that has to be overcome, but one shouldn't perform as an 18-year-old, but as a citizen." □

The demolition of old schools helped to cause a voter rebellion that enabled the two Mikes to be elected to stop school closings. They were too late for this one.

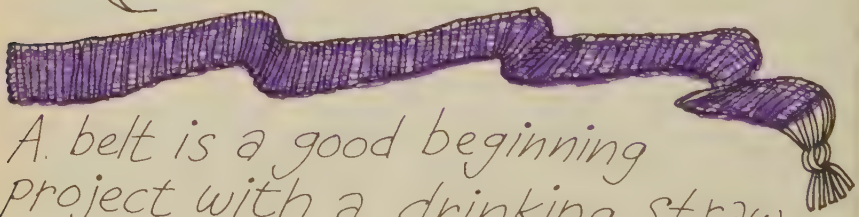
THINGS:

Crafts from Recycled and Common Materials
by Virginia Rich · drawn by Sandy Bauer

WEAVING

on a drinking straw loom

you need
- 4 OR 5 PLASTIC DRINKING STRAWS
- A BALL OF NON-STRETCHING STRING
- MASKING TAPE
- YARN · A YARN NEEDLE



A belt is a good beginning project with a drinking straw loom. Start with 4 OR 5 straws. Cut one piece of string for each straw. Each string should be twice as long as your waist measurement.

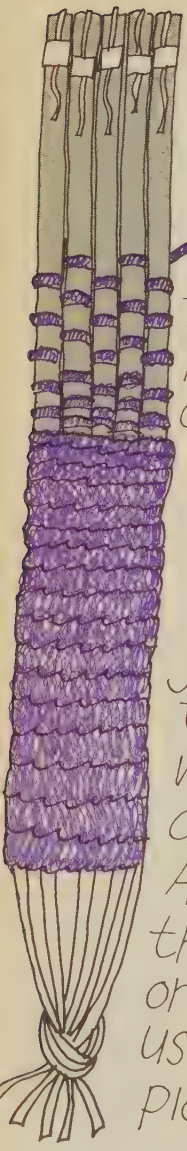
Thread one string through each straw and fasten it to the end of the straw with masking tape.

When all the straws are threaded tie the free ends of the string together in a loose knot.

Tie your yarn to one of the straws.

Gather all the straws in one hand, keeping the one with the yarn tied to it on the outside edge. Weave the yarn over and under the straws. Push the weaving down the straws as the top space gets woven full.

Eventually the woven yarn will drop off the ends of the straws onto the strings.



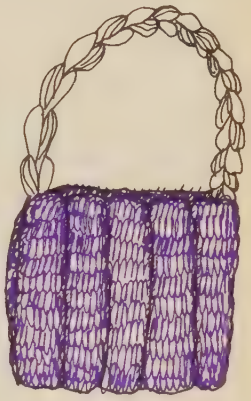
Remove the straws. Knot the end neatly-or with a yarn needle weave the ends into the woven part of the belt to make a flat finished end.

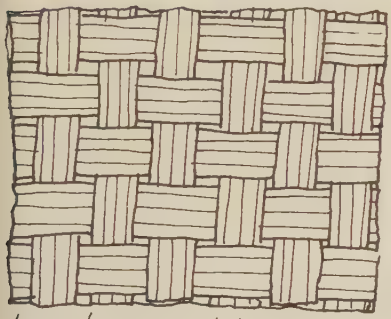
Redo the knot at the other end or weave the string ends into the piece with a needle.

After you finish weaving your belt there are other things you can weave with your drinking straw loom. A shorter version of the belt can be hung on the wall and used as a holder for pierced earrings.

You can make a purse with four or five long strips. Sew the strips together side by side

Fold this piece in half and stitch up the sides. Add a long or short braided handle.





A pillow cover can be woven from a number of strips. Sew the edges to a plain fabric backing to keep the strips in place.

You can experiment with using more than 4 or 5 straws. Devise a way to work on 10 or 12 straws. See how many different ways you can use the woven strips. □

DIALOGUE

In restlessness, I agonized:

I'm lonely.
I need friends who care.

I'm mixed up and confused.
I look for simple answers.

I'm tired of words, words, words.
I want the real thing!

I feel lost in a complex, mechanical, phony world.
I ache for honesty and meaning
that give me good feelings

I can't wait!
I want my kicks and action NOW!

God, if you're there,
don't let me squirm like this!
Save me!

Jean-Claude Lejeune

I heard a response:

There is in everyone that which is lovable.
Those who care are closer than you think.
I love you for who you are.

Growing up means learning to do your own thinking.
Beware of easy answers. And let no person be your master.
I applaud your searching.

Practicing, experiencing, witnessing
your kindness, your doubt, your trust
is your most personal reality.
I respect your own encounter with me
and with others in the world around you.

You are the only you. No computer can punch holes
in the uniqueness of your humanity.
You need family, friends, a setting where you feel
more sure about yourself and where you're going.
I encourage your restlessness for the right things in life.

What is best in life grows naturally
—in creation's orderly process.
Growth is never-ending, always active,
but growth takes time to cultivate.
The rush job is a cheap imitation.
Try patience, reflection, probing
and you'll know joy
as I meant it to be.

Yes, I'm here,
but remember: Squirming keeps the fish afloat.
You can be saved.

—Herman C. Ahrens, Jr.

NATALIE COLE

BY WILLIAM E. WOLFE

"Man, I hope it's not one of those monster mansions."

"Yeah."

"Well, it's not that I wouldn't like to see inside one of them."

"I know. You're just hoping that she does not live in something as showy as these places we're passing now."

Don and I were trying to visualize Natalie Cole's home. She had invited us to come there to conduct an interview for a syndicated radio series that I am involved in each week.

And I must admit that I was trying to visualize just who Natalie Cole really is. We had met her at the Grammy Award telecast and while she was radiant over winning her third Grammy, she was also friendly, humble, straightforward, and genuine. I've interviewed a number of artists before, but I've never before had a star patiently sketch out the directions to their house and to set up the phone arrangements so that we would be sure to make it.

As we drove to her house, I was also pondering the pressures she must be encountering. After all, Aretha Franklin had brought home that R&B (Rhythm and Blues) Award for ten consecutive years until Natalie appeared and capped the last two. Plus, she'll never get away from being the daughter of super successful Nat "King" Cole, master of the satin ballads of the 40's and 50's and the personification of the sophisticated capable black artist in mainline contemporary music. Even the fact that he did so well in what was then basically white territory and led some to call him an uncle Tom, now that struggle of racial identity would be visited upon his daughter.

The house was what I had expected. Moderate-sized California ranch-style. Small kidney-shaped pool. Grape arbor above outside dining table. Basically, an attractive, liveable dwelling settled midway up a secluded hill.

The answers that I had sought were not long in coming once the interview began. The thread that ran throughout her comments was her close relationship to her father. It's too obvious a fact to ignore and she does not want to, as compared with many artists who have famous relatives and somehow hope that people will forget. This is one major part of her life that she has carefully dwelt with in such a way that she is able to recover strength and stability from her heritage.

She explained, "It turns out that some of the things that I have

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William E. Wolfe is Director of Services in Youth Ministry of the United Methodist Church with special interest in music in the young culture.

The 30-minute interview from which this article is taken is available on cassette #28 of the Young Culture Lifetime Cassette Series ($5.25 from Discipleship Resources, Box 840, Nashville, Tenn. 37202).

Natalie Cole and her husband, Marvin Yancy, relax at home. He is also her producer and manager.

accomplished, I am kind of picking up where my father left off. I became successful very quickly so I picked up his success, and yet I have the talent as well, and now I see things very much the same as he did."

There are many goals that they have in common: writing, producing, hosting a TV series (which it appears she will have soon), and opening up doors for black artists. On other goals they differ, such as playing Las Vegas. "I really feel that I'm the other half of my dad." She explained, "He was

"Dad was very big in Vegas. But Vegas is not a goal for me. It's not the type of audience I appeal to. Maybe I can reach people Dad didn't get to."

very big in Vegas. Now, Vegas is not a goal for me. I saw my father there many times, of course, never thinking I would be there; but I did go there last year with Bill Cosby, and I found that for the type audience that I really appeal to, unless I'm working a certain type club, that audience is not there. I think I could catch the other segment or the other portion of people that he didn't get to."

Throughout the interview I was impressed with the way that Natalie had no hesitancy about any of the questions, whether the subjects might get too personal or intimidating, and it became obvious that this head-on approach to life is just one indicator of the inner honesty that she strives to maintain. Again, this would appear to be a trait that she has learned from her father.

"My goal is to capture people's hearts and not just their minds," she said. "Someone told me once that if you have the people's hearts, you have everything. And I really believe that. That's what my father did, and that's why he was so great and why he will always remain the greatest entertainer that ever was because he was real inside and he loved what he was doing. His love came across during his performance. People could feel that and not many people do that. There are entertainers who sing *at* the people and not *to* them and not *for* them. When you make the people believe that you believe in yourself and in what you are doing, they will come to you in a different way, and you've got fans for life rather than from one record to another."

Bette Midler had joked on the Grammy Award shown that the record industry is the only business in the world where "you're only as good as your last two minutes and forty-two seconds." Natalie agreed that for many performers this can be too true. She said, "If you go about it that way, your foundation is very shaky. And I need more stability than that—first of all, because I'm a woman, and, second of all, because I'm Black. Insecurities can arise in many forms. So I need that stability to know that I am loved and that I can give out love even in my work, and, of course, that is the greatest part."

"I was always told that if you reach for the moon, you might catch a star; so I don't think that women should limit themselves at all. I think that we are coming into

a new era where we had better grab it while we can. There are open doors to women that have never been open before and there is also another little thing that 'the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.' Although women shouldn't really strive to be equal to men, I think that they should contribute as much as they can to whatever industry or organization or anything they are involved in. Women are very instrumental in the changing of this whole world. And men need to know that it takes a woman to give that gentleness, that femininity, those touches that are really important—even in politics. I like to see women in politics only if they retain their femininity while they are in it. I really think they can bring a whole new outlook, a gentleness that is needed.

"Men need to be liberated too. They need to know that women aren't here just for certain purposes; we are here for each other. A minister once said that when God created women, he created woman not from man's head to be above him, not from his feet to be below him, but from his side to be by his side and to just be there when she's needed."

One thing for sure, Natalie is living a musical career that was planned only after it happened. She did make a one-time record appearance on a recording of a Christmas song with her father

"When you make the people believe that you believe in yourself and in what you are doing, you've got fans for life rather than from one record to another."

when she was six, but both of them felt that it was a once in a lifetime outing. She appeared in a play with him at the Greek Theater in Los Angeles when she was 11, but again, that was just for fun. So was the little combo she formed the next year with Dennis Dragon, son of the band leader Carmen Dragon (another son, Daryl, would later be known as the Captain of the Captain and Tennille).

Her mother was from New England and following Nat's death, Natalie was sent to school there. She attributes much of her personal growth to this location. "Things are a lot different back there," she explained. "Parents raise their kids differently, and you could just get a whole different type of upbringing back there. And I think also that it had a lot to do with my mom, the way she brought me up. She was strict with us and she made us earn our living power, that type of thing."

She stayed in the East to attend the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. "Well, I took Psychology when I was in college and I

graduated with my BA with the intentions of getting my Masters and opening up a rehabilitation clinic," she explained. "Now that I have started singing, I find that this is probably a means to an end for me. My social goals would be to have a clinic for underprivileged children who have a hard time at home or perhaps have only one parent or no parents and are being raised by foster parents. It would also be for parents, to be able to understand their kids better. We would like also to start a Yantze Foundation whereby we would give grants to kids who don't have the money to go to college."

It was during college that Natalie discovered the full impact of what it is to be black, and what she discovered, she liked. But the struggle to realize her identity and potential was not an easy period of her life, to the point that she was often depressed and discouraged.

And then came a chance meeting with Marvin Yancy, who had already tasted gold by producing the Independents. Marvin and Natalie were reluctant to discuss any musical work until that seemed to take care of itself when she heard him play the piano and found herself led to sing in totally new and creative ways.

Marvin invited Natalie out for a date—to a church. And not just any church—but the one where he was pastor. The thought of a successful record producer being a pastor boggled her mind, but she soon became involved in the church and was baptized there.

Natalie's life suddenly had new purpose and meaning. She related that "it was almost like the Lord turned me around and said, 'There's something for you to do.'" Her religious faith became the central force in her world. "Absolutely," she told me, "sometimes I just take it for granted that people know that there is a God and he is very real in my life and he has really taken control of the things that have happened to me."

Marvin began to write material for her and has produced all of her Gold Records. On Valentine's Day of 1977, they announced that they had been secretly married on July 31, 1976 in Chicago at the Fountain of Life Baptist Church, where Marvin is now the pastor.

Look for a gospel album from the Cole/Yancy company sometime in the future. She related, "My father recorded some gospel albums, and I would like to do that also, perhaps more than one. I would like to use the choir of the Chicago church where my husband is pastor. Also, another church that my father was affiliated with for many, many years besides it's being his own father's church, and I would like to use that choir and combine the two."

She is most excited about the

communication possibilities of this music. "Gospel is gospel," she stated. "There are different facets of it, but the idea is that the message is about Jesus and about the Lord and what he can do for you. It's a new approach to music and trying to get to the people."

Whenever performers mention that faith is an important part of their lives, I often am curious about whether they are able to participate in any way in a local church. Sometimes they brush this off as if churches are not related to their world, and this indictment could be as significant a statement about the church as about themselves. However, Natalie indicated that being a part of a church is extremely meaningful, even when she is on the road. "I often go to church more when I'm on the road than I do when I am at home which is really funny," she explained. "I really want to be more involved in church and be a part of it because it is really a fun thing. I remember last year the day after the Grammys, I was in church Sunday morning. I was at James Cleveland's church out here and who should come in but Gladys Knight. And it was really something for me to see her there and it was something for her to see me there, and it started a whole new type of relationship between the two of us and also it showed to the people that, 'Hey,

'Sometimes I just take t for granted that people know that there is a God and that God is very real n my life and controls what happens to me."

we're human, and we know that God is a very big part of our ives.'"

I've seen what labels can do to performers, especially religious abels. Does she have any reservations about being so labeled? At the question, her eyes focused more intently as she responded, "I think that if you can't express your beliefs, then you must not be too sure about it. But I am proud of the upbringing that I have had, and I want to tell people about it because it has worked for me, it really has. It is the, you could say, my success formula, and it's a very simple one and that is just being a Christian and having God n my life and not worrying so much. I used to worry a lot, and I just don't worry any more. I just take things as they come, and I don't mind being labeled as long as it's something that's true. If they can't say anything else about Natalie Cole, maybe they will say that she's different and that's good."

I agree. She's very different, and that's very good. □

Marvin Yancy as a minister surprised Natalie Cole, for his fame has come as a successful record producer.

Photo by Norman L. Hunter; opposite page photo by Rachelle L. James.

what's it mea

BY WAYNE B. ROBINSON

Some years ago, there was a film, supposedly based on the encounter group movement, called "Bob, Carol, Ted, and Alice." In that film, there is a brief scene at the place where these groups are held in which an old man appears. Seeing him, the question is asked: "What are *you* doing *here?*" His reply is, "I want to grow!"

Much of the rest of the film struck me as rather fanciful, but this particular scene was very real and was, in fact, I found out later, a replay of dialogue that occurred between members of the film

Dr. Wayne B. Robinson, pastor of First Congregational Church of Robbinsdale (United Church of Christ), Robbinsdale, Minn. This is one in a series of articles on a theology for youth.

o be human?

rew and an old man who was at he actual institute while the crew vas there doing some groundvork for the film.

I learned about this from the eal-life "old man" himself, who vas then, and still is, one of the nost widely-read and highlyespected theologians of our me. When he told me, I, too, was somewhat astonished that this famous man, who, of all people would seem to "have it made," would have gone there "wanting to grow." And yet there, indeed, he went, motivated, like you and I, by a sense of incompleteness and wanting to find and claim for himself a greater sense of wholeness.

This story holds an important clue which can lead us to what I understand to be the core of the biblical answer to the question: "What is Man?"— a question raised very clearly by the writer of the eighth Psalm and by countless women and men through the centuries. What is it that makes human beings special? Among the countless answers have been: Reason; the capacity to contemplate our own death; the power to manipulate the environment; our aesthetic/creative capacity; the ability to use language; sex not tied solely to procreation; our capacity for destruction, perversion and sin; the anticipation of life after death; the power to accumulate wealth; our "Goc consciousness"; our capacity tl love, etc.

What underlies all of thes options and ties them all togethe is the common thread that amon all the creatures on earth w human beings are the only one who do not "automatically" be come what we "destined" to be Full "humanness" is somethin that we have to discover, or grov toward. Humanness is also some thing that we can lose or grov away from at any given moment Unlike other creatures, we ar always in process; we are alway *becoming* more or less "human. No human being ever really "has made" for sure.

By way of contrast, imagine: lion being gripped by a mid career crisis and starting to be

It is human to question our self-worth; but it is also human to accept our having been made worth something by God, if we are to be free to grow.

have like a jackass; or a lion shaving his mane and becoming a vegetarian in order to get more in touch with his full lion-ness; or a lion couple choosing to have no cubs so they can be of greater service to the wider community of lions; or a lion having to be persuaded that he is, indeed, the King of the Jungle instead of the misshapen ally cat he inwardly feels himself to be!

These all seem crazy images when projected into the animal world, and yet when put back into the human world, these are all quite believable. What they underscore is that human life is so uniquely in process. Even when we think that we've "got it made," there are forces at work in us eroding that away (Isaiah 5:15). And even when we seem to be most lost, there are forces at work in us helping us to find ourselves for a while again (Isaiah 52:13).

The next question is: How do we move toward that elusive goal of becoming more fully "human"? The answers are myriad. Some of the "religious" answers have been: Through rites and rituals; through "good deeds"; through asceticism and self-denial; through sacrificial service to others; through acquiring the wisdom of the "Masters"; through extra-psychic experiences, etc. Some of the secular answers have been: Through education—"using your head"; through conformity to group norms; through drugs; through therapies of various kinds; through "liberation," etc.

What all of these tend to have in common are some basic assumptions, namely: (1.) it is something that is achievable or that can be earned, like a prize for coming in first in a race; (2.) achieving the goal of "fully human" is basically up to the individual woman or man; (3.) there is some recognizable point when you can say you have made it (been saved/achieved enlightenment/become famous/followed *all* the rules/batted .400 for a whole season/etc.); (4.) it is relatively easy to distinguish between those who have made it and those who have not, especially if you're among the chosen few who are sure that they have.

Some years ago, I was talking with a young woman who had just graduated from high school. She was bright, attractive, an excellent athlete, and a talented musician. She looked like someone who really had it together. As she spoke, it became apparent that

she had begun to question just about every assumption she had had up to that point. She wondered if she had any "real friends," whether her achievements were "worth anything" at all. Above all, she was wrestling with a hard-to-pin-down sense of guilt, which was all the more puzzling because she had never, to her knowledge, intentionally hurt anyone. In fact, she had always come to the defense of the people that others seemed to be making fun of or putting down. She had done all the right things and was still left with a sense of incompleteness.

What had happened is that she had moved to the threshold of a basic biblical insight, namely, that you cannot *achieve* your own sense of completeness, no matter how hard you try, no matter how many of the right things you do. This is the same thing that that super-achiever among achievers, the apostle Paul, discovered (Philippians 3:2-16). The paradoxical truth he lays out there is that we can move toward fuller humanness the moment that we stop trying to achieve it. I recently saw a quote at a treatment center, "I realized that God made me, and God don't make no junk!" Grammatically, that's a bit off, but existentially, it's right on.

It is uniquely human to question our self-worth; it also is uniquely human that we must

The towering figures of faith have always been the great riskers who went out "not knowing" about the future. Our only assurance is the love of God.

accept our acceptance, our having been made worth something by God ("the righteousness from God that depends on faith"—Phil. 3:9), *if* we are to be free to grow. So faith is the foundation of our ability to grow toward our unique potential as human beings. And this foundation is a gift to be accepted, not a prize to be won.

A second insight that characterizes the uniquely human journey is its setting in community. In Genesis I, when God creates human beings, they are made male and female simultaneously. This symbolizes for me the basic biblical assumption that it is in and through relationships that we move toward our unique potential. We cannot go it alone. This implies a radical openness of the self not just to other human beings, but to all of God's creatures, all of whom are "good." When asked to sum it all up, Jesus spoke of love of God, love of others, and love of self. And the "others" included even the ones wearing the "enemy" label at any given moment.

The third insight that's impor-

tant is tied into the special human capacity to anticipate the future. No matter what point we are at, we can always envision something else down the road in the journey. We can envision, among other things, our own death and we can even fantasize about some kind of life after death. This can be a pretty scary business, and the temptation is to want to believe anyone who seems to know for sure what the future holds. The biblical message says, however, that this kind of certainty is not really possible, and if it were, it would be harmful rather than beneficial to human growth and development.

The towering figures of the faith have always been the great riskers who went out "not knowing" (Hebrews 11:8ff.). Even Jesus did not know the future and he died wondering what it was all about (Mark 15:34). So, the authentically-human journey is one full of risk and uncertainty about the future. The only assurance we get is that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God (even though we may *feel* separated). Hope, then, is the name of this third insight, not certainty.

But, you might say, none of this really pins down for me for sure what it means to be "fully human." Yes, that's true. In fact, the biblical witness itself never does pin it down that way. There is no definition, not even the concept of the "perfect human being" in the Bible. Even the great heroes of the faith are all flawed in some way. But the three insights or pieces—"faith", "love", "hope"—do give some guidelines for the journey and some tools to evaluate advice for the journey we might receive from others.

Take the *faith* guideline. Does the advice offered to us help us get more fully in touch with and accept our acceptance by God? Or does it, even if in subtle ways, imply that we have to earn that acceptance by buying into a special system of rules, a special language to describe our experience, or a special set of rites and rituals? Faith is a gift, not a prize.

Take the *love* guideline. Does the advice we are getting help us to open ourselves up in love to others, or does it tend to set up barriers (Eph. 3:14ff.)? We discover ourselves best in relationships with others. And *hope* as a guideline should lead us to question any advice which promises any "airtight, money-back" guarantee on the future. Nothing is certain but hope.

Let's test this briefly on some advice that's offered quite a lot these days—that what we need most is to be "born again," a statement seemingly based on John 3. As I said in a previous article, faith language uses images like this to point to a realm of truth that is hard to get at otherwise. "Born again" or "born from above" is an image that is used only in this passage from John but it tugs at our imagination as it did that of Nicodemus. Properly used, it brings to consciousness our need to accept our acceptance by God if we are to grow toward our full humanity, something that does not automatically happen by our "first birth." Used this way in a spirit of invitation rather than harassment, it fits the first guideline well. It can well meet, but often fails to meet, the next two guidelines. The way it is used tends to create barriers

It is in relationship with others that we move toward our unique potential —through love of God, of others, and of self. We cannot go it alone.

between people rather than open them up to each other. There is also often an implied guarantee of the future. As Jesus himself experienced, quotations from the Bible can be misleading (Cf. Matthew 4:4, 6).

"Amazing Grace," a hymn that seems to be regaining in popularity, contains a line that can help, I think, pull this together a bit. The line reads, "I once was lost but now am found." The "am found" part is a verb tense that is rarely used today. It means I was found sometime in the past and I am being found today. It implies the dynamic process that is so much a part of the human journey. The only thing that's certain about our life is the certainty of change. I once was lost, I once was found; I am losing it, I am being found.

To become "human" means to set out on a journey, following the Pioneer (Heb. 12:2), in a land of endless new frontiers.

"What are *you* doing *here*?"

"I want to grow!!!" □

Teen-age volunteer David Cheney chats with Alonzo McClughen at the Veterans' Home in Indiana.

"It gives me a good feeling that I'm helping an older person," says Diana Rahdert, 13. This last summer was her first as a volunteer. "I enjoy being with this elderly woman, even though I know she's not No. 1 in popularity at the home. It's fun to be with young people—but it's just as much fun to be with older people—they've got a past! Then, there's an old man I take to physical therapy every day. I think it's *great* to see him get better."

"Because some of these people here don't get that many visitors, they're grateful to have someone to care about them," observes Lori Michael, 14, another volunteer. "I've never done anything like this before. I live in a small town, and this gives me a chance to make new friends. I really don't get out that much. I'm not really close to my own grandparents—but I feel kinda close to the ones I work with here."

David Cheney, 13, began coming to the Veterans' Home with his Boy Scout troup. "They quit, but I

"I'm glad I did it!"

BY ELIZABETH CANFIELD

thought it was fun. They (the elderly people) can tell you stories, and even play some games. One guy I'm with a lot taught me how to shoot a bow and arrow. Then there's another guy that's completely paralyzed except for two fingers and I help him play Bingo."

These young people come in response to a need. They give their time, compassion, and growing understanding. They have found that, for the elderly, loneliness is as terrible as it is for the teenager, and they minister to it with the deep empathy of the young.

Since 1896 Indiana has maintained a Home for retired veterans of U.S. wars, and for their wives or widows. A winding road leads through trees and green slopes of grass and splotches of sunlight to the group of neat buildings at the top of the hill, 185 feet above the Wabash River in West Lafayette. Many of the 400 residents are able

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Elizabeth Canfield is a free-lance author from Dayton, Ind.

to participate in the surprising number of activities offered them. But there are too many persons there, deserted by relatives, and with no friends, who find loneliness to be their constant companion.

For their sake the teen-volunteer program was instituted three years ago. With the cooperation of the schools, students were asked to volunteer to become companions of the lonelier residents. They came in unexpected numbers. Not all of them stayed, but those who did have made themselves a valuable, an irreplaceable part of the working staff of the home. The teenagers write letters, read to the elderly, wheel them to dining hall, beauty parlor, barber shop, or out onto the beautiful grounds of the home. They entice them into games in the recreation hall, or play checkers with them in their own rooms. The older teenagers accompany some of the residents on the home bus to movies or shopping trips in town.

"Both my mom and dad work," explains Tom Pearson, "and I ain't got no one else, and I like to spend my time with the old folks—they don't have anyone to visit them" Tom is 13 and rounding out his second summer with the volunteers at the home. Last year he had 49 hours to his credit, and this year he accumulated an amazing 147 hours!

Dan Scheeres, 15, believes, "They're a lot of fun. You can talk to them real free—one old guy I thought would be a real drag. When I first went into his room he was smoking, and I didn't like that much. But I sat down and he just looked at me. Then he started telling me about when he was a kid and wanted to smoke. His dad told him that when he could ride a horse and roll a cigarette at the same time, he'd be old enough to smoke. I sure guess he learned." Dan said the old man and he are good friends now and have no difficulty in communicating.

Roberta Stewart, Director of Volunteers at the Veterans' Home, told me happily, "It has been an extremely successful program. These young people have been able to accomplish things with these old people that regular staff members could not possibly do." She laughed. "They understand each other so well."

From September till June, school has to have priority on the time of these young people—which leaves only weekends. But just now, the home has no supervisory personnel for teenagers on weekends. They are hoping to expand the program to make this possible, because, although they understand they must be in school, the patients at the home fuss and fret when they cannot see their young friends regularly.

What these kids do is strictly

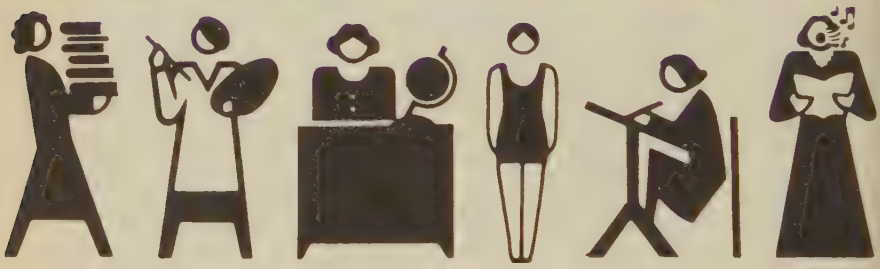
"Because some of these people here don't get that many visitors, they're grateful to have someone to care about them."

During a summer visit, Diana Rahdert walks with Ella Spray, while Florence Hamilton looks on.

their gift. They have no hope of monetary reward, and the only official recognition is a party at the end of the summer, and a certificate commending them for giving a certain number of hours. But the staff at the Veterans' Home knows the true value of what these young people contribute. They are working with other service agencies which use teen volunteers, as well as interested school personnel, to work out a system whereby high school credit can be given for volunteer hours. They point out that, in addition to the priceless reward of the gratitude of the patients, volunteers are receiving valuable on-the-job training for a number of possible careers, and so should receive credit for this as for any other course studied.

When asked how they felt about this possibility, Lori Michael expressed the feeling of them all: "That'd be great, but if it never happens, I'm still glad I did it.!" □

Herstory



Can you find the hidden last names of famous North American women—past and present? The names can be found by reading horizontally, vertically, and diagonally, forward and backward, up and down. Here are some clues. (Answers on page 57)

1. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Judy Garland
2. Daughter of missionaries, author *The Good Earth,* and first U.S. woman writer to win Nobel Prize
3. First woman driver to qualify for the "500" at Indianapolis
4. Foremost TV comedienne, whose series is in its 11th year
5. "Bubbles" is a popular classical singer
6. Founder of the first free U.S. parochial school and first native-born Catholic saint
7. First licensed woman pilot and first woman to solo Atlantic
8. Born in Ontario in 1934, they were first quintuplets to live more than a few hours after birth
9. A popular Texas legislator who has clout within her party and fame outside it.
10. Her singing voice led a whole generation against prejudice, pollution, and war.
11. Born a slave, she led over 300 slaves to freedom by an "underground railroad"
12. Canadian-born "America's Sweetheart," co-founder of United Aritists, and Hollywood's shrewdest businesswoman
13. First North American woman to win the Olympic (1948), European, and world

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B O D E N S A N G E R C A L A M I T I E D
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N O M L O L E U E N J O R S E N R L L O N
C A E M I L Y D B I C A K I S I E O S N R
J A R U D O L P H M H N E H A K C U B V A
X S T E I N E M E R A C A R S O N I A E N
A D D A M S B A A K E N S U S A N B L I D
P O S T U M C E B O N Y X M I N N E L L I

figure-skating championships

14. She brought a new dimension to the role of First Lady, from the ghetto to the United Nations
15. Her contralto voice won her music's highest acclaim, including the first black to perform with the Met
16. "Angel of the Battlefield" in the Civil War and founder of the American Red Cross
17. Started as a child movie darling, she became U.S. ambassador to Ghana
18. Freed from a world of blindness and deafness by her teacher, Anne Sullivan, she inspired millions
19. She made 50 movies before a situation comedy on television with her husband brought her fame and fortune
20. Published her first cookbook in 1896 and started her school of cookery in 1902
21. She set a nation's manners and morals with her best-selling guidebook
22. The scholar, whose *Silent Spring,* made ecology everybody's concern
23. Won three Gold Medals in the 1960 Olympics, after being unable to walk normally until the age of 11
24. An anthropologist whose early studies in the South Seas help us today to understand how we "come of age"
25. Holder of the most Wimbledon titles ever and first woman athlete to win over $100,000 a year

To Know God Is God

Wayne Robinson's approach to answering that old question, "Who is God?", intrigues me (September 1977). We're always trying to find scientific proof of God's physical existence or to probe our psychological necessity to have a god we can lean on. But, as Dr. Robinson does, to see God as that in whom we can trust the most, in whom we can always put our loyalty, who will love us no matter what is to touch human beings where they are most human—in relationships with others. God is the most in relationships! Wow! I need that! And what proof!

—L.B., Syracuse, N.Y.

One on One

Could you send our church ten extra copies of the special "money" issue (January 1977) and bill us? I was impressed that you ran the interview with Dr. Robert Lekachman, one of my favorite people. It was also good of you to run the rebuttal (August 1977) from H.B. of San Mateo, whose concept of democracy is interesting—that consumers "vote with their dollars." I guess that means that if I have two dollars and you have one, you vote once and I vote twice. And if you don't have any dollars, you don't get to take part in our very special sort of democracy. O well, you are doing a good job. Your magazine represents a broad range of interest that is especially appealing to our youth.

—J.G., Chicago, Ill.

Dial the Draft

Russell Claussen did exceptionally creative work on the "Dial the President" article (June 1977). I appreciate the kind of religious journalism that this article and its approach represent. It takes extra effort to develop material that is pertinent and palatable, plus current and accurate. Keep up the good work.

—W.H., Washington, D.C.

I Grew, Too

As a former ICYE exchange student, I agree with Annette Meynen in her article (June 1977) on her exchange year in the U.S.—it was a growing one for me, too. It helped me achieve more insight as to who I was and what I wanted out of life. I think exchange students are very much alike—adventurous and ready for a challenge. Thanks to Annette for her honest, down-to-earth, heart-warming article.

—J.S., Miamisburg, Ohio

Now You Know

I didn't know that churches can host foreign exchange students through their own program and send their own young members abroad, too, under the same program. That's why I liked the article (June 1977) about the International Christian Youth Exchange written by a German exchangee in the U.S.

—K.T., Charlotte, N.C.

Worth Reading

"The Letter" by Dr. Thomas Bratter to his children was worth all the rest of the articles in the May issue on drugs and alcohol. I wish there were more adults like him.

—M.S., Marion, Ohio

Same Dreams

I think from your prayers, I have come to know the people behind your magazine more than in any other way. For example, "Help Me Keep My Dreams Alive," in March said so very much to me, not only about myself, but about you.

—R.C., Mt. Vernon, N.Y.

BEST ART BY YOUTH

A portfolio of the best in poetry, fiction and non-fiction writing, photography, drawings and sculpture as selected from the more than 3,000 entries from teenagers who entered our annual Creative Arts competition.

RERUN INTERVIEWED

Fred Berry talks about his life since he developed the popular young character of "Rerun" on the TV show, "What's Happening!!" Exclusive interview.

YOU CAN DO IT, TOO!

Youth everywhere are proving that they are not apathetic but that they are active in getting things done. Read what other youth are doing and thinking, as individuals and as groups, to serve others, to have fun, and to cope with problems.

WHO IS JESUS?

A Christian cannot fully understand what it means to be Christian until she or he fully understands who Jesus Christ is.

YOUTH HAVE RIGHTS

In an effort to crack down on rising youth crime and student misbehavior, our society is getting dangerously close to exploiting the rights of high-school-age youth. Often ignorance of the law causes problems for teens. What is the law and what are your rights?

A MODERN SAINT

A young volunteer describes her experience of working among the sick and dying of Calcutta, India, and a center run by Mother Teresa and her religious co-workers. Here is a young person's behind-the-scenes look at a modern saint.

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1. Liza MINNELLI
2. Pearl BUCK
3. Janet GUTHRIE
4. Carol BURNETT
5. Beverly SILLS
6. Mother SETON
7. Amelia EARHART
8. DIONNE Quintuplets
9. Barbara JORDAN
10. Joan BAEZ
11. Harriet TUBMAN
12. Mary PICKFORD
13. Barbara Ann SCOTT
14. Eleanor ROOSEVELT
15. Marian ANDERSON
16. Clara BARTON
17. Shirley Temple BLACK
18. Helen KELLER
19. Lucille BALL
20. Fannie FARMER
21. Emily POST
22. Rachel CARSON

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C	N	E	C	A	R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T	M	A	B	Z	U	G	N				
D	D	P	Z	I	T	C	N	K	H	A	F	A	R	M	E	R	M	M	P	S				
R	E	U	B	R	I	S	E	N	S	T	E	C	I	N	A	T	W	I	O	J				
N	R	B	A	I	M	O	E	E	P	I	C	K	F	O	R	D	E	O	R	O				
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B	O	D	E	N	S	A	N	G	E	R	C	A	L	A	M	I	T	I	E	D				
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N	O	M	L	O	L	E	U	E	N	J	O	R	S	E	N	R	L	L	O	N				
C	A	E	M	I	L	Y	D	B	I	C	A	K	I	S	I	E	O	S	N	R				
J	A	R	U	D	O	L	P	H	M	H	N	E	H	A	K	C	U	B	V	A				
X	S	T	E	I	N	E	M	E	R	A	C	A	R	S	O	N	I	A	E	N				
A	D	D	A	M	S	B	A	A	K	E	N	S	U	S	A	N	B	L	I	D				
P	O	S	T	U	M	C	E	B	O	N	Y	X	M	I	N	N	E	L	L	I				

23. Wilma RUDOLPH
24. Margaret MEAD
25. Billie Jean KING

STAR WARS

An imperial warrior blasts at rebels who seek to save the galaxy.

All photos from 20th Century-Fox

A REPORT ON EARTH VISIT BY SEE-THREEPIO AND ARTOO-DETOO

Let me introduce myself. I am C-3PO, affectionately known as See-Threepio.

Poop-poop-a-doop!

Oh, yes, this is my friend, R2-D2, but I call him Artoo-Detoo. You can call him that, too, since we're among friends.

We're both droids—robots to your earthlings.

I am programmed to translate thousands of galactic languages existing among all creatures everywhere. That's how I can talk to you in your galaxy today, even though I come from another

"Across galactic vibrations, we hear that the two of us droids are national heroes. How can droids be more human than humanoids?"

galaxy far, far away a long time ago.

Zizzz-boom-bah!

Ah, yes, Artoo reminds me that we were brought here by the *Millenium Falcon,* an intergalactic merchant ship, owned and piloted by Han Solo. His co-pilot is Wookie Chewbacca. Our master, Luke Skywalker, came along for the ride. They're all at a nearby theatre seeing a moving picture on a screen called "Star Wars." We are curious about this phenomenon.

Squeak!

Back to us. My antenna is tuned to receive the electronic communications from less sophistocated robots, like Artoo-Detoo, and I transpose this to humanoid conversation. That's why he needs me. I'm his mouth.

Bleep-doop-taw!

Translated: "You may be my mouth, but I am your brains, dummy!"

Artoo-Detoo is programmed to do highly-technical maintenance and computation. That's why he's important to have on board any star ship flying through space, light, or the galaxies. He can also store and analyze unlimited information. He communicates in a very abbreviated form of electronic language. It sounds like bleeps to you. That's why you don't understand him.

Oooooh!

And that's why he needs me!

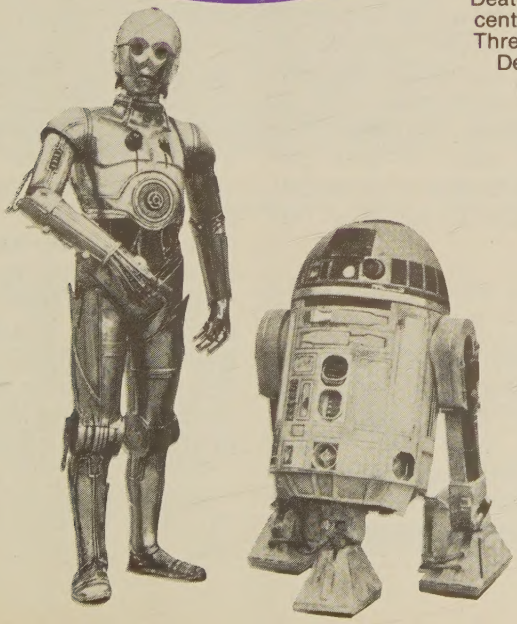
Augh!

What do we look like? I'm tall, shining gold, and have two arms, two legs, a head with visual receptors ("eyes"), two audio receptors ("ears"), and a vocoder ("mouth"). Artoo-Detoo is short, round, two motorized treads ("legs") and one retractable tread, and a domed top that rotates 360 degrees. We are loaded with much more technical equipment, but I won't bore you with all of that now. In summary, I'm tall and handsome and Artoo is short and plump.

Mutt-en-jess!

He says, "We look like Abbott and Costello!" Since when is he

Darth Vader and his imperial guards take Princess Leia to the Death Star detention center (above). See-Threepio and Artoo-Detoo (below) are droids who play strategic roles.



"Artoo knows what you want him to know but sometimes he does more with his knowledge than you do with yours. Have you left your thinking for machines to do?"

programmed to have a sense of humor?

Ping-bong!

No, it's feedback from your film critics. And from you movie fans, too. Across the galactic vibrations, we've heard that the two of us are among your latest national heroes here. But why? So we decided to investigate, but they wouldn't let us in your theatre—"We don't serve your kind here," they told us, but they let our friends in. I guess we droids are made to suffer—it's our lot in life!

Artoo and I draw crowds wherever we go here. Our pictures are on shirts and on walls in bedrooms. Young humanoids to whom we talk say that we are the most human part of this phenomenon, "Star Wars." How can droids be more human than humanoids?

Kalm-sents!

Artoo wonders if it's because we droids make better use of our computerized accumulation of intelligence and our well-lubricated ability to communicate than humanoids do. Have you left the thinking for machines to do?

Ho-sprit-paw!

Artoo reports a limit to the strength of a people to know facts and to form them into a pattern for healthy behavior. Despite Artoo's capacity to store more knowledge than his master, Artoo evaluates the impact of his accumulated know-how to still lacking total strength. You humanoids have got something to which he doesn't have access.

I have often heard our master say, "May the Force be with you." This is a power beyond the capacity of droids to possess. It can be a power for good.

Z-z-z-zing! Teak!

Artoo analyzes all facts about the futility of war and wonders why—if humanoids are the highest form of life in all creation, if they weigh all past experience carefully, if they know the happiness of using their talents for the purpose of peace—why have there always been wars and bias and misbehavior and villains in your galaxy and in ours, as well as in your present and in our past?

Kil-lick-blat!

Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Chewbacca, and Princess Leia discuss their best route of escape from the Death Star, which threatens the destiny of the galaxy.

Artoo was programmed solely by humanoids. He knows what you want him to know but sometimes he does more with his knowledge than you do with yours. Once he worked overtime analyzing his storage of knowledge. He fed back his answers to his master, who talked with the Princess Leia. Today, in our galaxy back home, all knowledge points to peace and the power of the Force acting in all creatures is making it happen.

Would you believe "Star Peace" is possible?

Clap-clap-clap!

Or does that spoil your fun?□

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